



Browning Emergency Lights Installed

Nine years ago the Browning Hospital recognized the importance of installing the runway edge lights at the Starr Browning Airport. Knowing funding for this project was difficult the hospital contacted the MDT Aeronautics Division inquiring about the possibility of this project.

The lights would allow surrounding hospitals to use fixed wing aircraft rather than helicopters for night time emergency flights in and out of Browning, greatly decreasing the time spent in the air and increasing survival rates of patients.

Through a cooperative approach two years ago Debbie Alke, Division Administrator requested grant funding from the Aeronautics Board to complete the lighting project. The Division entered into an agreement and cost sharing partnership with both the Kalispell and Great Falls Hospitals to accomplish the lighting project.

The lighting system increases the usefulness of the Starr Browning Airport and makes it a good night operations airport for all the public to enjoy.



Attention Pilots:

Effective May 6 services are being transferred from Great Falls Flight Service Station to flight service stations in Denver (6:00am - 10:00pm) and Prescott (10:00pm - 6:00am). All frequencies will remain the same.

Call for - WX briefs: 1-800-WX-BRIEF
TIBS WX: 1-877-484-2799
NOTAMS: 1-877-487-6867



The lights on the Starr Browning Airport are a real safety enhancement for emergency medical flights and all pilots that use this airport.

Administrator's Column

Recreational Use Statute: Senate Bill 318 has successfully passed both bodies of the legislature and is on its way to the Governor for signature. The bill amends Montana's recreational use statute to provide limited liability to private landowners who provide their property for public use by aircraft. This includes private, noncommercial aircraft. Chuck Jarecki, MPA Director/Recreational Airstrip committee was instrumental in orchestrating the efforts by Montana Pilots' Association members and other aviation enthusiasts. Thanks to Senator Jim Peterson for his work in sponsoring this important legislation and to all of you that participated in this effort.

FBO of the Week: Congratulations to Dillon Flying Service who received the FBO of the Week ribbon recently from AVweb. AVweb reader Benjamin Marsh liked the service so much at the FBO that he dreams of going back. Here are Benjamin's comments: "Dennis and Jean, the owners, offer extremely personable service and genuinely care about their customers. Dennis, a high-time tailwheel pilot, welcomes everyone from cub pilots to jet jockey's at the FBO. Dillon's does get transient traffic; however, most is recreational due to its world-famous fishing and hunting. Yet prices are extremely low unlike other recreational airports. The FBO even offers a beautiful C172 for rental at only \$82/hour wet. Overall, this FBO is a dream come true for any fisherman planning a trip this summer to the Beaverhead, Big Hole, Ruby or Madison Rivers, but still wants to stick to his budget. I can only dream of a flight back to Dillon." Stop by and visit Jean and Dennis next time you are in the area.

Administration's proposed reforms criticized: Hearings continue on the proposed FAA reform. In a hearing recently before the House Aviation Subcommittee, Travis Vallin, director of the Colorado Department of Transportation Division of Aeronautics and chairman of the National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO), told the subcommittee that

the Administration's proposal is not in the public interest. "Throwing away 30 years of wise, tested and successful public policy for a radically different user fee based system that would actually collect less revenue than we enjoy today and would likely cause great damage to the General Aviation Community is not in the public interest," said Vallin. He stated NASAO's firm opposition to user fees for General Aviation and support funding the federal AIP at \$3.8 billion annually.

More service expansion: I'm happy to announce that Brian Sprenger, Gallatin Field, Bozeman has informed me that United Express will begin Bozeman – San Francisco direct service on Saturdays from June 9 – September 1. This new seasonal service will enhance air service for the airport and Bozeman area travelers. Great news.

Heads up: It's been reported that companies interested in developing more wind power throughout the State are setting up "test" towers that are at least 100' tall. These towers are not lighted and extremely difficult to see. They are located throughout Central and South Central Montana as well as some closer to the Rocky Mountain Front. In the spirit of safety, if you are aware of any such tower please notify our office with a location, lat/long or any other information that can be passed along to fellow pilots in this publication. Thanks for the help.

Helena Airport Selected as Test Site: The Helena Regional Airport has been selected as one of three sites in the United States to test and evaluate a Terminal Surveillance & Approach System (TSAS) pending a 2008 Congressional appropriation - more info to follow. This system is now operating in a test mode at several military facilities - the CEO of the company that manufactures this equipment, along with their Washington DC representatives, were in Helena to review the Airport site.



Montana and the Sky

Department of Transportation

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Jim Lynch, Director

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Calendar

April 21 - EAA breakfast at Stevensville Airport, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. For further information contact Steve Rossiter at SteveRossiterMT@aol.com. This event will be held every third Saturday from April through October.

May 7-10 – Laurel Aviation Technology Week. Any aircraft welcome to display on May 9 & 10; contact Marie Hart (406) 628-8623 or www.laurel.k12.mt.us.

May 24 – Aviation Maintenance Technician Day

May 26-28 – Benchmark & Spotted Bear Work Sessions.

June 1-3 - Piper Fabric Restoration Seminar, by Clyde R. Smith. Hosted and held at Aerotronics in Billings. For further information phone Steve at (406) 259-5006 or email steve@aerotronics.com.

June 2 – 5th Annual Settle Aviation MPA Fly In at Sunday Creek Airpark beginning at 10:00 a.m., steak fry, flour bombing. For further information phone (406) 232-6926.

June 2 – 3 - Montana Mountain Flying Rendezvous at the Townsend Airport. Vigilante and Southwest MPA Hangars hosting, Density Altitude and Mountain flying clinic, quality ground school, flight instruction and theodolite measurements and great food! For further information contact Bill Gallea at billgallea@hotmail.com.

June 4 - Aeronautics Board Meeting, Helena. For further information phone (406) 444-2506.

June 9 – Lewistown Airport Fly In Pancake Breakfast and Static Display – 7:00 a.m.. For further information, phone Jerry Moline (406) 350-3264.

June 16-17 – Father's Day Fly In Sourdough Pancake Breakfast. Fort Peck Airport. Barbeque Saturday evening and pancakes Sunday morning. For further information, phone Lanny Hanson at (406) 263-1154 or email hpb@nemontel.net.

June 16-17 – Father's Day Fly In, Twin Bridges Airport. Pig roast and pancake breakfast. More information on web site at www.rubyvalleyaviation.com.

June 16-17 – Air Show, Baker Airport, featuring Pietsch Air Shows and Gene Soucy Air Shows. Saturday; barbeque at 5:30 p.m., dance at 8:00 p.m. in new hangar. Sunday, Breakfast 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.; Air Show starts at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday. For further information contact Roger at bakerair@midrivers.com or phone (406) 778-3508.

June 23 – “New” Plains Airport Fly-In Breakfast, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. For further information, phone Randy Garrison at (406) 826-3605 or (406) 826-3055.

June 23-24 – Meadow Creek Work Session.

June 30 – North Central Hangar Fly In Breakfast and Big Boys Toy Show, Havre Airport. For further information phone Darren Huestis at (406) 390-1255, or Bob Breum at (406) 265-7394.

June 30 - July 1 - Fly In Stevensville Airport, breakfast both days; barbeque Saturday afternoon/evening. For further information contact Steve Rossiter at SteveRossiterMT@aol.com.

July 4 – Townsend Airport Legendary Forth of July Fiesta Breakfast. 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Contact Karen or Neil Salmi for further information (406) 266-5400.

July 14 – Del Bonita Work Session.

July 20-22 – Staggerwing Fly In, Seeley Lake Airport (23S). For further information slk32190@blackfoot.net

July 20-22 – Schafer Meadows Work Session.

July 28-29—Bozeman Air Show featuring the Blue Angels along with MiG Fury Fighters, World Parabolic Swoop Team, Greg Poe, Kent Pietsch and Jim Pietz.

2007 Conference - Another Success Story

Following months of planning and organizing the 23rd annual Montana Aviation Conference proved to be another success story. With a wide variety of aviation speakers, a jam packed exhibit hall and the generosity of our sponsors its no wonder that Montana is the best aviation conference in the nation.

Thursday kicked off with a high caliber session, featuring Catherine Lang, Federal Aviation Administration; Katie Pribyl, General Aviation Manufacturers Association and Travis Vallin, National Association of State Aviation Officials who discussed the “State of the Industry” an important topic for the entire aviation community.

During the kick off luncheon a few moments were set aside to recognize legendary pilot Ken Roth who had passed away earlier that week. A moment of silence was also held in memory of our friends who had passed during the year, many of them conference regulars who will be sorely missed. John Kounis of Pilot Getaways Magazine showed everyone some “Fun Places to Fly in the American West” all of which looked pretty amazing and worth checking out. John stayed on hand to conduct concurrent sessions throughout the conference – a big hit with participants.

Thursday evening an awards ceremony was held in the exhibit hall, hosted by our good friends at City Service Valcon and Phillips 66 Aviation. Ed Croymans and his staff are big supporters of the conference each year. A big thank you to them and our other generous sponsors; Avmax Montana Inc.; CH2M Hill; Kadrmas, Lee & Jackson; Missoula International Airport; Morrison Maierle, Inc.; Potomac Aviation Technology Corp.; Edwards Jet Center; Silver State Helicopters; Aerotronics Inc.; Belfort Instrument Company; Cross Petroleum Service; Exec Air Montana Inc.; Mead & Hunt; Montana Antique Aircraft Association; Pacific Oil Cooler Service, Inc.; Rapco Inc.; Reveal Imaging Technologies Inc.; Robert Peccia & Associates; Stelling Engineers, Inc.; Big Sky Airlines; Dollar Rent A Car; Frontier Airlines; Horizon Airlines and Minuteman Aviation. Without their support this conference would not be possible.

Friday morning the Aircraft Mechanics Seminar and IA renewal was underway with 90 mechanics in attendance to hear the latest and greatest in aviation maintenance.

Friday an awards luncheon was held and we were honored to have Mayor John Engen whose great sense of humor added a very special touch. Steve Jones of the FAA presented Diamond Awards of Excellence to Greg Jones of Neptune Aviation Service, Jerry Wortley of Merlin Airways, Pat Bailey of Corporate Air and Big Sky Airlines.

Cindy Kleimer of Montana Antique Aircraft Association recognized Allison Gollehon of Fairfield who was the recipient of the \$500 MAAA scholarship.

Russ Dahl of Montana Pilots Association presented the \$500 Jr. Pilot of the Year Scholarship to Spencer Gilchrist of Helena and the \$500 Flight Training Award to Troy Hunter of Glasgow. Hangar of the Year was presented to Wade Cebulski of Five Valleys hangar and Dan Prill was the recipient of the prestigious President’s Award.

Doug Parrott recognized Stephen Fowler of Billings who received the \$1,000 Parrott Family Scholarship to attend Rocky Mountain College in Billings. This is the twelfth scholarship the Parrott family has given to a high school student and we thank them for their continued support.

Debbie Alke recognized Kelsey Smith of Bigfork the recipient of the \$500 Aviation Organizations of Montana Scholarship, Forrest Miller of Billings the recipient of the \$250 Harold Hamm Scholarship, Jessica Smith of Billings the recipient of the \$250 ALOA (A Love of Aviation Scholarship) and Jake Hemphill of Billings the recipient of the \$250 Blue Goose Scholarship (this was the 10th scholarship administered by the Kurberka’s – Katie Prybil one of the featured conference speakers who now works for GAMA was their first scholarship winner in 1998). Crystal Sachau who attends the Helena College of Technology was the recipient of the Morrison Family Scholarship in the amount of \$500. Crystal was brought to tears by the Morrison’s generosity and the amazing participation of so many aviation organizations in our great state.

Jim Lynch, MDT Director presented the 2007 Airport of the Year to two airports this year, Lincoln and Plains. On hand to accept the award for Plains was Rick Donaldson, Airport Engineer (Robert Peccia & Associates), Carol Booker, Randy Garrison, Dan Lilja, Miller Bryce and Marlin Cooper. Accepting the award for Lincoln was Mitch Stelling and Jeff Walla, Airport Engineers (Stelling Engineers), Debbie Alke, Jim Greil, Mike Rogan, Jerry Cain and Bob and Karen Frank-Plumlee. Congratulations on these two well deserved awards.

Friday evening The Singing Sons of Beaches entertained the crowd with their great talent and humorous songs – a very special addition to the Friday evening activities.

Saturday the luncheon was held in the Exhibit area with prizes galore thanks to our Exhibitors. The Exhibitors are another important group of people without whom this conference would not be possible. A BIG thank you to each and every one of them, we appreciate all you do in ensuring our continued success.

Saturday evening the committee honored some local firefighting “heros” with prints of the conference artwork done by artist Julie Chapman, the image “Courage Over Fire” depicted a Neptune P2 during a retardant drop. Speaker John Maclean spoke on his third book “The Thirtymile Fire: A Chronicle of Bravery and Betrayal” that will be published in May by Henry Holt and company. Although not an easy subject as four firefighters lost their lives in this blaze it certainly made everyone realize their amazing bravery and gave us all a chance to remember those firefighters that died in the fire Tom Craven, 30, Devin Weaver, 21, Jessica Johnson, 19, and Karen Fitzpatrick, 18.

See conference photos on pages 5 and 6. Special thanks to Will Abbot of Abbot Aerial Photography for serving as the official photographer during the conference.

A Busy Exhibit Hall!



Photography by: Will Abbot,
Abbot Aerial Photography

More Conference Activities

Photography by: Will Abbot, Abbot Aerial Photography



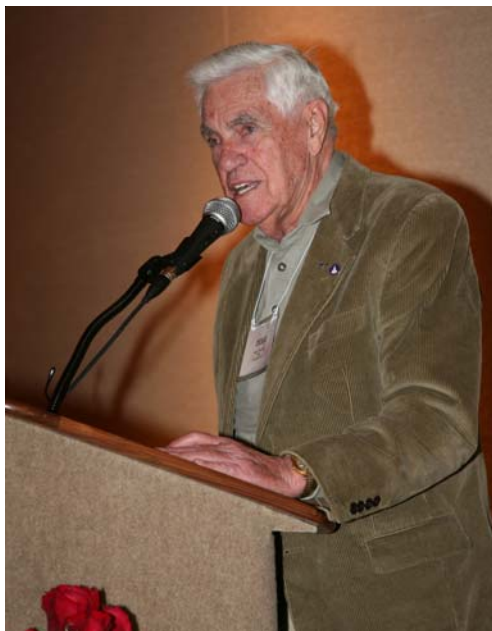
Russ Dahl presents Spencer Gilchrist with \$500 Jr. Pilot of the Year Scholarship.



Crystal Sachau was very thankful to receive the \$500 Morrison Family Scholarship to help further her career in aviation.



Russ Dahl presents Troy Hunter with the \$500 Flight Training Scholarship.



Doug Parrott gave the 12th \$1,000 Parrott Family Scholarship to Stephen Fowler of Billings who will be attending Rocky in the fall.



Debbie Alke thanked Stelling Engineers for a job well done on Lincoln Airport another "Airport of the Year" and also thanked the local pilots for their awesome support throughout the project.



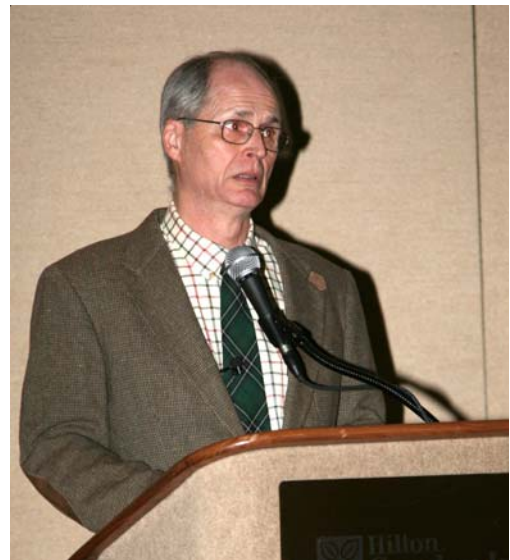
"Airport of the Year" went to Plains Aiporrt. The recently completed project was a collaborative effort between the FAA, The State of Montana, Sanders County and the town of Plains. The five million dollar project was nearly seven years in the making. Pictured are Dan Lilja and Carol Booker of Plains.



Steve Jones presented one of the Diamond Awards of Excellence to Jerry Wortley of Merlin Airways, this was the 6th year Merlin Airways has received this award.



During the Saturday banquet the local firefighters were recognized for their superlative courage and bravery, Rick Hafenfeld (l) accepted for the United States Forest Service, Cris Jensen, Missoula Airport Director presented Rick with a "Courage Over Fire" print that was painted by local artict Julie Chapman exclusively for the confrence.



John Maclean author and journalist was Saturday evenings featured speaker. John's books have been acclaimed by critics and were winners of literary prizes.

Legendary Pilot Ken Roth Dies

Capt. Kenneth W. Roth flew his final approach on Saturday, February 24, 2007, in Missoula. He was born March 22, 1924, in Hoxie, Kan., to John C. and Mabel Roth.

Ken met the love of his life, Sally Hanson, at a street dance in Missoula. They were married on August 10, 1955.

He joined the Navy during World War II, in 1943, serving as a gunner's mate third class on the USS Sumner. He was 21 when the Sumner entered Tokyo Bay in 1945 and anchored near the battleship Missouri for the historic signing of the peace documents.

Ken joined the smokejumper program in 1946 and trained at the Forest Service's Ninemile camp northwest of Missoula. Based in McCall, Idaho, he was a smokejumper for five seasons.

Ken took flying lessons on the G.I. Bill. He soloed in a Piper Cub, earned his private pilot's license the same year and went on to take a commercial rating, also on the G.I. Bill. With more than 13,000 cockpit hours, he flew everything from Stinsons to Travelairs, Ford Tri-Motors, Lockheed Electras, helicopters to DC-4s. In April 1952, he signed on with Johnson Flying Service as a full-time pilot until the company's sale in 1975.

On August 17, 1953, Ken took off on an airstrip in the vicinity of Spotted Bear Ranger Station. He and seven smokejumpers headed toward a fire in the Hungry Horse area. The engines of the Tri-Motor 66905 cut out. He decided to land the best he could, short of the looming hillside, into a stand of timber. The impact literally broke open the Ford's cockpit and all but demolished the plane, with no loss of life. The only injury was a fracture to Ken's right foot.

In early July 1960, Ken flew himself and his DC-3 airplane out of trouble while on a Forest Service flight near Belgrade. Bad air and an altered center of gravity caused the twin engine cargo plane to roll upside down. Banking steeply, he missed the cliff, brushed the plane's tail section and knocked off the tail wheel. Ken kept the plane in the air and returned to Belgrade.

Ken loved to skeet and trap shoot. He was a longtime member of the Missoula Trap and Skeet Club. It was a sport that he shared with family and friends for many years.

As many of his close friends say, "Kenny Roth, thanks for the memories."

He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Arlene.

Ken is survived by his loving wife of 51 years, Sally; daughter, Trina Anderson and husband Kevin of Battle Lake, Minn.; daughter, Tammy Mantei and husband Gary of Missoula; son, Michael Roth and wife Kimberly of Missoula; grandchildren, Jamie, Kim, Tracy, Cody, Katie, Josh, Brea, Karissa, Danielle, Nicole, Kenneth Michael, Justin and Christine; great-grandchildren, Katrina, Jordan, Carson and Jaxson; brothers, John (Edna) and Richard Roth; and several nieces and nephews.



Ken Roth's picture is featured in the Montana Aviation Hall of Fame at the Missoula Airport. He was the last surviving charter member of the Hall of Fame.

EAA's Women Soar

"Girl's when you think about your future do you dream of doing something beyond the ordinary? What does it take to become the next astronaut, test pilot, engineer, scientist, CEO or award-winning journalist?"

EAA's Women Soar will be offered for girls in grades 9-12 on July 22-23, 2007 at AIR Venture in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Women Soar is two days of empowerment and inspiration for girls. Student fee for the two-day program is only \$10.00. To enroll in this rare opportunity, call EAA at 1-800-236-1025. Registration fee is \$10.00 UNTIL June 30 then it is \$20.00. Registration fee includes programs, meals and Monday admittance to Air Venture.

Piper Fabric Restoration Seminar By Clyde R. Smith Jr.

June 1, 2 and 3

Aerotonics of Billings

1651 Aviation Place

Billings, MT 59105

Phone: (406) 259-5006

Fax: (406) 252-4369

steve@aerotonics.com

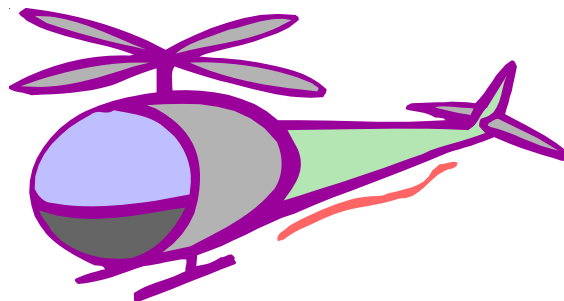
This is a good way to familiarize yourself with genealogy of the Piper models and find out everything from service

problems to performance specs. The class will cover the FAA Airworthiness Directives that pertain to the airframe, engine, propeller and accessories. It will go over the whole restoration process in detail from tear-down to final inspection and test flight. Discussion will include cleaning, inspection, fabricating parts and where to get parts and supplies. There will be some demonstration and will include rib repair methods, wing panel trammeling, fabric covering and stitching. Old photos, factory reference books, along with currently published books on Piper history will be on display.



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